Heli-Taxi service in Delhi

663. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce a Heli-Taxi service to various places in Delhi on the pattern of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be its impact on the local transport system in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Committee on purchase of aircrafts

664. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Experts has recommended not to acquire 35 new aircrafts at a cost of about Rs. 3,000 crore as they are not cost effective;

(b) if so, what are the other reasons for putting off the project to acquire new aircrafts; and

(c) whether some deficiencies in tendering process have been noticed and if so, the action taken by Government against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. The project proposals to acquire new aircraft for Air India and Indian Airlines are at different stages of consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Flights of Air Sahara

665. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Sahara has announced daily flights to and from Colombo in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the places in India where Air Sahara flights will start and the places where it will terminate; and

(c) by when these flights will be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) No private airlines, including Sahara Airlines, have so far been granted permission to start scheduled international flights. However action is at hand to give effect to the Joint Statement issued during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, which provides for operations of private domestic airlines to Sri Lanka.

Aircrafts leased by Haj Committee

666. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign aircrafts were leased by Air India on behalf of Haj Committee for Haj operations in 1998 to 2001;

(b) if so, the terms of the lease, year-wise;

(c) corresponding amounts charged by Air India/Indian Airlines/Saudia when they operated the Haj Charter Service for 2002 and 2003; and

(d) the Charter fare paid to the carriers by the Haj Committee in 2001, 2002 and 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVAITION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The terms of lease year-wise are as under:

Year	Name of operator	Term of lease	USD per Pilgrim	Rs. per pilgrim	At other cash cost per Pilgrim (Rs.)	Total per pilgrim (Rs.)
1998	Air Charter Co. USA	Wet Lease	560	22166	7240	29406
1999	Mido Aviation UK	-do-	498	21069	6786	27855
2000	-Do-	-do-	592	22677	5849	28526
2001	Kampuchean Airlines	do-	8717	34122	526.50	25405
	Thailand					
	Saudi Arabian Airlines Saudia	--		32000	2122	34122